

# Warsaw

Model United Nations



October 2012 Conference:  
World Trade Organization  
Committee Guide



# Chairs' foreword

Honorable Delegate,

As chairs of this year's World Trade Organization, we would like to sincerely welcome you at the Warsaw Model United Nations 2012. This is the first edition of the Warsaw Conference at which the World Trade Organization (WTO) will be present, therefore we feel equally thrilled about approaching debate. The WTO deals with the global rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible. It is a forum for governments to negotiate agreements and settle trade disputes. The World Trade Organization was born out of negotiations, and everything it does is the result of negotiations.

During this year's conference the debate in the WTO will concern **environmental impact and sustainability of future trade** which is a topic that has to be paid attention to by all Member States, therefore each country's opinion and actions are of high importance. Our debate should resemble the world's first ever environmental negotiation in the context of a round of trade negotiations which was launched by Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

We express our deepest hopes that this guide will serve you as a reference, providing the basic framework of your negotiations within the oncoming debate. Please note that this base of information should only serve as a guideline for further research and analysis of each respective member states' policy. We firmly believe that broadening of this knowledge and tailoring it to the policy of each member state will prove fruitful and that the results of it will create an inspiring experience during the Warsaw Model United Nations 2012. Should you have other enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are both looking greatly forward to meeting you in October!

Best regards,

**Adam Borowski**

*Chair of the World Trade Organization*

**Agnieszka Widłaszewska**

*Deputy Chair of the World Trade Organization*





# Introduction

The debate in the World Trade Organization will be based on a speech delivered by the Secretary General of World Trade Organization - Pascal Lamy, in which he underlined the importance of sustainability as a principle on the basis of which future trade should be organized. One of the ways of promoting sustainability is to provide special subsidies for so called „green businesses“. In general, the aim is to introduce green economy on a worldwide scale in order to keep counter existing environmental degradation and prevent further damage.

To begin, it is crucial to define and explain some expressions, around which the whole debate will be constructed.

## Sustainable development

According to the World Commission on Environment and Development:

*„development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs“*

excerpt from a report published in 1987

The general definition of the term **sustainable development** is a balance between three main concepts: economic development, social equity and environmental protection. Its aim is to use all available resources in a way that prevents unnecessary damage to Earth's environment and does not create obstacles to development for the next generations.

The term can be shortly defined as: **a trading system that does not harm the environment or deteriorate social conditions while promoting economical growth.**





Nowadays, the worldwide economic development is progressing at an unprecedented rate and the natural reserves are becoming dangerously depleted. 60% of the world's major ecosystem goods and services that underpin livelihoods have been degraded or used unsustainably over the last quarter of a century. Humanity is far from sustainability. However, the development of a green economy could still recreate the balance in the availability of resources which, according to its policies, will still be there for the generations of mankind to come.

### Green economy

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP):

*„the one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities. In its simplest expression, a green economy can be thought of as one which is low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive”*

On the first glance, the idea appears to be the perfect solution to the problem of unsustainability. It does, however, face severe obstacles that prevent it from developing across the globe. The main disadvantage of adapting this policy is its cost - the technology used is expensive to manufacture and often has high initial and maintenance costs. Few developing countries can afford these developments and large-scale external subsidies are often requested in order to help them in introducing the policies of a green economy.

advantages of a green economy	disadvantages of a green economy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• control of environmental damage</li><li>• allowing future generations to use natural resources</li><li>• enhancing resource and energy management</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• high cost of manufacturing and maintaining technology</li><li>• frequent need for support from external sources</li><li>• need for high-level technological expertise</li></ul>





# Case studies

## European Union's (EU) „20-20-20” targets.

These are three ambitious aims concerning climate and energy. They were set by EU's governing bodies in March 2007, when they committed Europe to become a highly energy-efficient, low carbon economy, and were enacted through the climate and energy package in 2009. These are:

- a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels
- raising the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%
- a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency

EU has committed itself to accomplish all of those goals by 2020.

## Green Economy Initiative by UNEP

Another crucial project is „Green Economy Initiative”, launched by UNEP in 2008. Within UNEP, the Green Economy Initiative includes three sets of activities:

- Producing a Green Economy Report (its aim is to convince policy makers that “greening” economies is not causing an economic decline, on the contrary, it is an engine of growth) and related research materials, which will analyze the macroeconomic, sustainability, and poverty reduction implications of green investment in a range of sectors from renewable energy to sustainable agriculture and providing guidance on policies that can catalyze increased investment in these sectors.
- Providing advisory services on ways to move towards a green economy in specific countries.
- Engaging a wide range of research, non-governmental organizations, business and UN partners in implementing the Green Economy Initiative.





### **EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP)**

Majority of commercial fish stocks are fully exploited or overexploited, what leads to further consequences, affecting the whole ecosystem. As a result they are a great concern for policy makers nowadays. Consequently, there are various attempts at controlling fishing business and fisheries subsidies. One of them resulted in EU's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The most important areas of action of the CFP are:

- ④ laying down rules to ensure Europe's fisheries are sustainable and do not damage the marine environment
- ④ providing national authorities with the tools to enforce these rules and punish offenders
- ④ monitoring the size of the European fishing fleet and preventing it from expanding further
- ④ providing funding and technical support for initiatives that can make the industry more sustainable

### **South Africa's solar park**

The country is planning to build a US\$ 21.8 billion, 5000MW solar park in the semi-desert Northern Cape Province as part of a national strategy to sustain economic growth and reduce poverty without increasing its carbon footprint. South Africa's strategy is to make cleaner, more efficient use of the country's abundant, low-cost coal reserves in the short term while at the same time expanding the use of low-emission energy technologies and renewable materials. What is more, other renewable energy plants are also encouraged through generous feed-in-tariffs, which were approved by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa in late 2009 and are among the most attractive in the world.

### **Wastewater interception (Netherlands)**

In the Netherlands, a large chemical firm has, since 2007, secured a long-term, cost-effective and reliable supply of water by taking the local community's wastewater, and reusing it twice - firstly for steam production in manufacturing plants and then again in cooling towers, taking more than 9.9 million liters of household wastewater every day and cutting freshwater use. It has also reduced resource use in purifying salt water that was used in the past, using 65 % less energy and 500 tons fewer chemicals per year, and consequently 5000 tons less CO<sub>2</sub>.





### **The City of Vienna's cross-departmental procurement program "ÖkoKauf Wien" (Eco-buy Vienna)**

This shows how public procurement can be a powerful tool for environmental protection and resource efficiency while saving money. The program develops the tools for green procurement, covering for instance paper, electrical and electronic appliances, construction, vehicles, and food. Intensive public relations work makes the results available to the interested parties, such as public procurers, commercial enterprises and citizens. The estimated results are savings for the City of Vienna of at least 17 million euro and 30000 t of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions each year, whilst change to public buildings save 1.5 million euro thanks to reduced water demand per year.

### **UK National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISIP)**

NISIP is a national program applied at regional level across the UK, offering networking opportunities and advice on sustainable resource management solutions for businesses. The program brokers ongoing resource exchanges (typically of process by-products) between companies. NISIP facilitation costs are covered by the Government (about 6 million euro per year). Currently over 13400 companies of all sizes are members of the program.

All mentioned projects are just examples and should not be treated as main points of approaching debate. Each Member States Delegate is expected to conduct a research on initiatives carried out in his own country and be able to suggest other potentially successful ideas, aiming at achieving universal sustainability.





# Individual issues

The oncoming debate will be focused each state's individual policy which will be presented both within the policy statement and the arguments of ambassadors. We strongly recommend you to personalize your research in order to facilitate effective representation of your state's policy. Here are some example questions for individual research:

- ❶ How does the structure of State's industry relate to environmental sustainability frameworks?
- ❷ Are policies introducing "green" measures of economy feasible and profitable for the State?
- ❸ Which industries dominate the State's market? Are they heavily damaging for environment? Will the industrial lobbies oppose green legislation?
- ❹ Does the State possess necessary technological means to restructure its markets?
- ❺ What international agreements bound the State that influence its approach to green economy? Does it, for example, import fossil fuels from abroad?

## More resources

We would like to recommend you some documents that could prove to be useful during your preparations for the debate. However, bear in mind that they constitute only a base and introduction to further research that should be conducted by each delegate.

- 1) [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/sppl\\_e/sppl237\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/sppl_e/sppl237_e.htm) - a speech delivered by Pascal Lamy which should be treated as an elaboration of the main topic
- 2) [http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/envir\\_e/envt\\_intro\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envt_intro_e.htm) - trade and environment in WTO
- 3) [http://www.unep.org/greenconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/GER\\_synthesis\\_en.pdf](http://www.unep.org/greenconomy/Portals/88/documents/ger/GER_synthesis_en.pdf) - exhaustive report about green economy
- 4) [http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/publications\\_e/brochure\\_rio\\_20\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/brochure_rio_20_e.pdf) - a document concerning Rio+20 conference, we advise you to read especially part V







- 5) [http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/UNEP-ETB%20Brochure%20on%20Fisheries%20Subsidies\\_May2008.pdf](http://www.unep.ch/etb/areas/pdf/UNEP-ETB%20Brochure%20on%20Fisheries%20Subsidies_May2008.pdf) – fisheries subsidies indicated as one of the most serious concerns of negotiations

## Further preparations

The aim of the debate in WTO is to produce a resolution suggesting a solution to the problem outlined in this guide. In order to facilitate achieving our common goal we kindly request each delegate to prepare policy statements as well as notes in the form of a draft resolution.

## Policy statement

It is basically the overview of country's policy towards each subject. Therefore, each country delegate should prepare a policy statement. The desired length of the statement is about 2 minutes. In the beginning of the discussion each delegate will be asked to present the document in order to familiarize other delegates with the country's policy. It will be useful later for finding co-submitters of the resolution. Tips on writing good policy statement and sample works are accessible on WawMUN website ([www.wawmun.pl](http://www.wawmun.pl)). In case you would like to discuss, before the conference, whether your policy statement is correctly written you are more than welcome to send it to WTO's Chair or Deputy Chair.

## Draft resolutions

Prepare draft resolution beforehand makes lobbying more efficient. Draft resolutions will be discussed during informal lobbying. You may prepare your own, complete propositions and find the countries willing to co-submit your draft or you can prepare solely your desired clauses and search for appropriate draft resolution introduced by another member of the council, in which they can be implemented. Tips on writing the documents, as well as information about the Opening Speech, which not every delegate has to prepare can be found on our website ([www.wawmun.pl](http://www.wawmun.pl)). We recommend studying the WawMUN Instruction Booklet, especially if it is your first conference.





While preparing to the Conference please bear in mind that:

- you, as a Delegate, always represent your country's policy, not your personal attitude,
- you should not duplicate ideas or solutions from United Nations resolutions,
- you should not propose any kind of military activities, as this does not lay in the WTO's competence.

## Rules of procedure

In order to ensure that the whole conference is performed correctly and resembles real United Nations to the highest possible extent, we oblige you to read and obey the rules of procedure. You can find them extensively described on our website ([www.wawmun.pl](http://www.wawmun.pl)).

## Closing remarks

Once again, we hope that the piece of information you have acquired through this guide remains an inspiration for you to carry out an in-depth research, which will be both interesting and eye-opening. We wish you fruitful preparations for the Conference.

We look forward to seeing you in October!

**Adam Borowski**

*chair of the WTO committee*

**Agnieszka Widłaszewska**

*co-chair of the WTO committee*

